GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:695
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
STOCK OF WHEAT
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Sen Smt. Minati;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stock of wheat in the country declined to 11 million tonnes around the beginning of September, 2005;

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains including wheat procured during the last three years and the current, year-wise;

(c) whether the current stocks of foodgrains including wheat are adequate to meet the demand in country till the ensuing Rabi Season;

(d) if not, whether the shortage is likely to affect the food based programmes particularly Food for Work Scheme;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to meet the shortage of foodgrains in the country and check the rise in price;

(f) whether foodgrains are being exported to foreign countries despite shortage; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The stock of wheat in Central Pool as on 1.9.2005 was 116.22 lakh M.T.

(b): Quantum of foodgrains procured during the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 is as follows:-

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
2002-03	190.02	190.55	380.57
2003-04	207.81	158.01	365.82
2004-05	240.37	167.96	408.33
2005-06	145.62	147.87	293.49

(upto 23rd Nov. 2005)

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): In order to keep a check on prices of foodgrains and to regulate the stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool, following steps have been taken:-

(i) The ratio of Rice & Wheat in the allocation of foodgrains to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been streamlined keeping in view the food habits of each State/U.T.

(ii) Ensuring adequate stocking of foodgrains in FCI depots in all regions of the country and releasing the same under the TPDS and other Welfare Schemes.

(iii) Movement of foodgrains from surplus States to deficit States.

(iv) Close monitoring of wholesale and retail prices of foodgrains.

(v) Release of wheat under Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) to check rise in prices of wheat.

(f): No, Sir.

(g): Does not arise.